

What is Claimed:

1 1. A method for determining a display format of a display device, the method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 sensing information provided by a display device having a display format, the
4 sensed information being indicative of the display format of the display device; and

5 determining the display format of the display device responsive to the sensed
6 information.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the display device includes a register
2 containing information indicative of the display format and wherein the sensing step
3 comprises at least the step of:

4 reading the register to obtain the information indicative of the display format.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the register includes a manufacturer and
2 model number of the display device and wherein the determining step comprises at least
3 the step of:

4 determining the display format for the display device based on the manufacturer
5 and model number read from the register.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the register includes an aspect ratio and
2 resolution of the display device and wherein the determining step comprises at least the
3 step of:

4 determining the display format for the display device based on the aspect ratio and
5 resolution read from the register.

1 5. The method of claim 2, wherein the reading step comprises at least the step
2 of:

3 reading the register over at least one video signal line coupled to the display
4 device, the at least one video signal line configured as a two-way data path.

1 6. A method for determining display device characteristics, the method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 sensing information provided by a display device having display parameters, the
4 sensed information being indicative of the display parameters of the display device; and

5 determining the display device characteristics responsive to the sensed information.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the display device includes a register
2 containing data indicative of the display parameters and wherein the sensing step
3 comprises at least the step of:

4 reading the register to obtain the data indicative of the display parameters.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the register includes data indicative of a
2 manufacturer and model number of the display device and wherein the determining step
3 comprises at least the step of:

4 determining a display format for the display device responsive to the manufacturer
5 and model number.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the register includes data indicative of an
2 aspect ratio and resolution of the display device and wherein the determining step
3 comprises at least the step of:

4 determining a display format for the display device responsive to data indicative of
5 the aspect ratio and resolution.

1 10. The method of claim 7, wherein the register includes data indicative of an
2 aspect ratio of the display device and wherein the determining step comprises at least the
3 step of:

4 determining the aspect ratio of the display device from the read data.

1 11. The method of claim 7, wherein the register includes data indicative of a
2 resolution of the display device and wherein the determining step comprises at least the
3 step of:

4 determining the resolution of the display device from the read data.

1 12. The method of claim 7, wherein the reading step comprises at least the step
2 of:

3 reading the register over at least one video signal line coupled to the display
4 device, the at least one video signal line configured as a two-way data path.

1 13. A video monitor including:

2 a display device;

3 a digital register coupled to the display device, the digital register including data
4 indicative of at least one characteristic of the display device; and

5 a data path coupled to the digital register to provide the data indicative of the at
6 least one characteristic of the display device to an output port.

1 14. The video monitor of claim 13, wherein the data path is a video signal path
2 configured as a two-way data path.

1 15. The video monitor of claim 13, wherein the at least one characteristic
2 includes an aspect ratio of the display.

1 16. The video monitor of claim 13, wherein the at least one characteristic
2 includes a resolution of the display.

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1 17. The television of claim 13, wherein the at least one characteristic includes
2 manufacturer and model number of the display.

1 18. A video display system including:

2 a video display having a register including data indicative of at least one
3 characteristic of the video display; and

4 a decoder configured to read the data in the register of the video display and
5 determine the at least one characteristic of the video display from the data.

1 19. A video display system according to claim 18, wherein the at least one
2 characteristic includes an aspect ratio of the display.

1 20. A video display system according to claim 18, wherein the at least one
2 characteristic includes a resolution of the display.